

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 /114 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 022776

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, ES

SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS DISPUTE: COMMITTEE OF
SEVEN MEETS

REF: STATE 14392

1. THE COMMITTEE MET FEBRUARY 1 TO DISCUSS THE RESPONSES
FROM THE SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN GOVERNMENTS TO THE COM-
MITTEE'S CABLE OF JANUARY 21 (REF).

2. THE HONDURAN NOTE HAS THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. HONDURAS CONTINUES READY TO NEGOTIATE, IF EL SAL-
VADOR DEMONSTRATES CLEARLY IT IS SERIOUS ABOUT TRYING TO
RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

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B. THE RESULTS OF THE MEXICO MEETING WHICH ENDED IN

DECEMBER SHOULD BE THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR FUTURE TALKS.

C. EL SALVADOR MUST SHOW THE COMMITTEE PRECISELY ITS POINT OF VIEW ON DRAWING THE BOUNDARY LINE BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS CAN RESUME.

D. HONDURAS IS PREPARED TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE IN A FUTURE MEETING IF IT IS AIMED AT AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

3. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE SALVADORAN NOTE ARE:

A. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT ENDED, BUT ARE ONLY INTERRUPTED. EL SALVADOR IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER REVISION OF THE ACT OF WASHINGTON.

B. THE ACT AND THE MEXICO NEGOTIATIONS HAVE LED TO A GREAT OUTCRY IN EL SALVADOR. THIS FACT AND THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ACT WITH SERENITY NOW. SO ANY REVISION OF THE ACT SHOULD WAIT UNTIL APRIL.

4. THE COMMITTEE, AT THE SUGGESTION OF CHAIRMAN SEVILLA SACASA AND THE US, NOTED THE IMMINENCE OF THE MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE, AND DECIDED TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION UNTIL AFTER THAT MEETING. SEVILLA SACASA REPORTED THAT SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR GALINDO HAD ASKED THAT EACH GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE OTHER. SEVILLA SACASA HAD THEN DISCUSSED THIS WITH HONDURAN AMBASSADOR GALVEZ, WHO IN TURN GOT THE APPROVAL OF BATRES. THE COMMITTEE THEREFORE AUTHORIZED SEVILLA SACASA TO MAKE THE EXCHANGE OF RESPONSES.

5. COPIES OF NOTES ARE BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, BORDER INCIDENTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE022776
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TETAYLOR:JD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740257/aaaacbrn.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 14392
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS DISPUTE: COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MEETS
TAGS: PFOR, HO, ES
To: GUATEMALA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005